AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of inhibiting a cytomegalovirus (CMV), the method comprising exposing a cell infected with CMV to an RNAi agent that targets a CMV gene transcript, under conditions that permit induction of ribonucleic acid interference (RNAi), wherein the RNAi agent targets the CMV transcript within a region common to at least two CMV mRNAs derived from the transcript, such that CMV is inhibited.

2. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the RNAi agent targets a CMV immediate early gene transcript.

3. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the RNAi agent targets a CMV early gene transcript.

4. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the RNAi agent targets a CMV late gene transcript.

5. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein the RNAi agent is a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecule, each strand of which is about 18-29 nucleotides in length.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the dsRNA has a 3'dTdT sequence and a 5' phosphate group (PO4).

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein each strand of the dsRNA is encoded by a sequence contained within an expression vector.

8. **(Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting the expression of two or more proteins

simultaneously, the method comprising:

(a) providing an siRNA that targets a single mRNA that is translated into the two or more proteins; and

(b) exposing the single mRNA to the siRNA under conditions that permit induction of RNAi, the RNAi inhibiting the single mRNA that is translated into the two or more proteins;

such that expression of the two or more proteins is simultaneously inhibited.

9. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 8, wherein the siRNA is a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecule, each strand of which is about 18-29 nucleotides long.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 9, wherein each strand of the dsRNA is encoded by a sequence contained within an expression vector.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 8, wherein the mRNA is expressed from exon 3, exon 2, or exon 1 of UL123 and UL122 genes.

12. **(Withdrawn)** A method of using post-transcriptional inhibition to inhibit expression of more than one protein with a single agent, the method comprising:

(a) providing an RNAi agent capable of targeting an exon that is present in mRNA that is translated into more than one protein; and

(b) administering the RNAi agent to cells in which viral expression is to be inhibited;

such that expression of more than one protein is inhibited by the RNAi agent.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 12, wherein the exon is exon 3 of genes encoding IE72, IE86, and IE55 proteins.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 12, wherein the RNAi agent is dsRNA which is greater than about 18 nucleotides and less than about 29 nucleotides in length.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 12, wherein the RNAi agent is an expression vector expressing dsRNA which is greater than about 18 nucleotides and less than about 29 nucleotides in length.

16. **(Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting viral replication, the method comprising targeting an isolated nucleic acid to an mRNA from which more than one protein involved in viral replication is expressed, such that viral replication is inhibited.

17. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 12, wherein the mRNA is expressed from exon 3, exon 2, or exon 1 of UL123 and UL122 genes.

18. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 17, wherein the mRNA expresses two or more of IE72, IE86, and IE55 of CMV.

19. **(Withdrawn)** An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 or its complement.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 19, wherein T is replaced by U.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 19, wherein the isolated nucleic acid is double-stranded.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the isolated nucleic acid has 3'dTdT and 5'-PO_4.

23. **(Withdrawn)** An isolated nucleic acid comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 2 or a complement thereof.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein T is replaced by U.

25. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein the isolated nucleic acid

is double -stranded.

26. **(Withdrawn)** The isolated nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the isolated nucleic acid has 3'dTdT and 5'-PO_4.

27. **(Currently amended)** An RNAi agent which is targeted to a CMV gene transcript, wherein the RNAi agent targets the CMV transcript within a region common to at least two CMV mRNAs derived from the transcript. ~~encoding one or more CMV proteins~~.

28. **(Currently amended)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, which is targeted to a CMV gene encoding one or more of the group consisting of [[l]] IE1 [[,]] and [[1]] IE2 [[,]] ~~DNA polymerase, a scaffold protease, gB, and gH~~.

29. **(Previously presented)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, wherein the RNAi agent is a dsRNA, each strand of which is between 18-29 nucleotides in length.

30. **(Previously presented)** The RNAi agent of claim 29, wherein the dsRNA has a 3'dTdT sequence and a 5' phosphate group (PO4).

31-37. **(Cancelled)**

38. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising[[,]] the RNAi agent selected from the group consisting of claims 27-30, 48-50, 52, 53, and 57-59 ~~and 48-53~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

39. **(Original)** A method of treating a condition associated with CMV infection comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 38 to a vertebrate mammal with the condition, such that the condition associated with CMV infection is treated.

40. **(Original)** The method of claim 39, wherein the vertebrate mammal is a human patient.

41. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 39, wherein the vertebrate mammal ~~animal~~ is a non-human primate.

42. **(Original)** The method of claim 39, wherein the CMV-associated condition is one of the group consisting of retinitis, pneumonitis, restenosis, cervical carcinoma, prostate cancer, adenocarcinoma of the colon, disseminated viremia, and organ dysfunction.

43. **(Original)** The method of claim 39, wherein the administering is localized or tissue-specific.

44. **(Cancelled)**

45. **(Currently amended)** The method of any one of claims 1, 5 and 6, wherein the RNAi agent targets a CMV gene transcript encoding one or more of the group consisting of [[l]] IEl [[,]] and [[1]] IE2 [[,]] ~~DNA polymerase, a scaffold protease, gB, and gH~~.

46. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claims 5 or 6, wherein the dsRNA comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 in which T is replaced by U, or its complement.

47. **(Previously presented)** The method of claims 5 or 6, wherein the dsRNA comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2 in which T is replaced by U, or its complement.

48. **(Currently amended)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, which targets a CMV immediate early gene transcript.

49. **(Currently amended)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, which targets a CMV early gene transcript.

50. **(Currently amended)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, which targets a CMV late gene transcript.

51. **(Withdrawn)** The RNAi agent of claims 29 or 30, wherein the dsRNA comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 in which T is replaced by U, or its complement.

52. **(Previously presented)** The RNAi agent of claims 29 or 30, wherein the dsRNA comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2 in which T is replaced by U, or its complement.

53. **(Previously presented)** The RNAi agent of claim 29, wherein each strand of the dsRNA is encoded by a sequence contained within an expression vector.

54. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the mRNAs derived from the transcript encode at least IE1 and IE2.

55. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the RNAi agent targets exon 3, exon 2, or exon 1 of CMV genes UL122 and UL123.

56. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the RNAi agent targets exon 3 of CMV genes UL122 and UL123.

57. **(New)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, wherein the mRNAs derived from the transcript encode at least IE1 and IE2.

58. **(New)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, wherein the RNAi agent targets exon 3, exon 2, or exon 1 of CMV genes UL122 and UL123.

59. **(New)** The RNAi agent of claim 27, wherein the RNAi agent targets exon 3 of CMV genes UL122 and UL123.

60. **(New)** A method of treating retinitis comprising administering the pharmaceutical

composition of claim 38 to a vertebrate mammal having retinitis, such that retinitis is treated.

61. **(New)** The method of claim 60, wherein the vertebrate mammal is a human patient.

62. **(New)** The method of claim 60, wherein the vertebrate mammal is a non-human primate.

63. **(New)** The method of claim 60, wherein the administering is localized or tissue-specific.

64. **(New)** The method of claim 63, wherein the administering is by intravitreal injection.